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> From the Editor's Desk "Saying it like it is!"

Joe is on his Honeymoon, Duckie and Bob Dean are on vacation. When it rains it pours. While I'm at it... if you are interested or know of someone who might be interested in being our MAC editor, please let me know. Spring Comdex is showing real signs of life already and the intros of new goodies is going to be very exciting. New software and software upgrades are already beginning to flow.

The "End of an Era" has driven home the premise that things change all the time and that for progress to come about... things must change. Commodore, once the sweetheart of the electronic junkies, is no more. The whole nine yards hit the fan. In looking back.. all one can say is it was nice while it lasted. Who's next? Anybody's guess. I'll say this much though, the "name of the game" is colored blue with a generous helping of Microsoft's emblem in clear view. At least that's where the "everyday Joe" is going to be if not already. Mac is slowly swinging toward the PC route and Atari is, for all intents and purposes, out of the computer business and back into the "game machine" business. The next five years will say it all.

Next week (hopefully)... we'll begin our series on the online services each service's pro's and con's. A hard look at their "front-end" software and their approach to the marketplace. It should be interesting. Most of our material came from users like you. After all, it is the users who keep these services afloat, so why not have a vehicle with which to provide suggestions and "critiques". It can only help. There is still time to send in your ideas and impressions. All the services are being looked at CIS, GENie, Prodigy, AOL, E-World, Delphi and NVN. Let's hear from you!

Ralph.....

STReport's Staff

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> CPU STATUS REPORT

LATE BREAKING INDUSTRY-WIDE NEWS

IBM/POWER-PC/PC SECTION (I)
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Computer Products Update - CPU Report

Weekly Happenings in the Computer World

Issue #19

By: Lloyd E. Pulley, Sr.

***** General Computer News *****

** Atari and Sigma Join Forces on Jaguar **

Atari Corp., the manufacturer of the award-winning Jaguar video game system - the world's first 64-bit interactive multimedia home entertainment system, the only video game system manufactured in the U.S. - this week announced an exclusive licensing agreement with Sigma Designs.

Sigma Designs - a leading manufacturer of high-performance multimedia computer products and document imaging display solutions - will incorporate the Jaguar's 64-bit technology with Sigma's Reel-Magic (TM) full-motion video capabilities in a PC card that will allow more than 10 million users to play Jaguar software titles on their IBM-compatible personal computers. It is hoped to have these cards available by the end of the year.

According to Sam Tramiel, president of Atari, "Atari will once again jump ahead of the market by bringing the world's most advanced game technology to a new group of consumers in record time." "Knowing there would be great demand for Jaguar on personal computers -- we designed the system to talk easily to the leading computer architectures. This has allowed us to move quickly to partner with Sigma Designs to make this happen before Christmas."

Julien Nguyen, vice president of engineering and chief technical officer of Sigma Designs said, "We are pleased to join Atari in its mission to expand the industry standards for video game play." "Jaguar's 64-bit technology will be extremely attractive to the MPC customer base of more than 10 million users. By combining Sigma's Moving Picture Experts Group (MPEG) technology with Atari's 3D

animation, we look forward to bringing the hottest video game technology and software titles to the desktops of users worldwide."

**** Sega, MGM to Develop Games ****

Sega of America Inc. and Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Inc. have announced plans to jointly develop video games, interactive media, television programs and films. While details weren't disclosed, it's felt that both companies will collaborate in production and marketing of new media products. The products will bear both the MGM and Sega names.

MGM and Sega executives said the products to be developed under the agreement will be original concepts, but they may choose in the future to develop interactive games on 1995 and 1996 movie releases from MGM and United Artists.

The companies also plan to develop at least two interactive CD-ROM titles for release this year.

**** Nintendo Signs Deal with DMA ****

Nintendo of America has signed a deal with high-end game designer DMA Design Ltd. in a bid to develop a new, inexpensive and highly advanced home video game system.

DMA of Dundee, Scotland, will make games for Nintendo's much anticipated 64-bit system called Project Reality. Sources say, "The move heats up the already fierce competition among leading video game manufacturers such as Sega and 3DO Co."

Reports say Nintendo will offer Project Reality as a \$250 video game player "that will surpass the computing power of some of the most powerful home computers. Its games will be interactive and have television-quality pictures and audio." "Some market analysts expect it to rock the computing world the same way personal computers forced mainframe-builders to drastically reduce the scale of their business in recent years."

Project Reality, an advanced home video system scheduled to debut in fall 1995, is being developed for Nintendo by Silicon Graphics Inc.

**** 3DO Disks Pass 1 Million Mark ****

In the six months since the company's launch, 3DO says it has pressed more than a million compact discs for its advanced home gaming system. The company is quoted as saying more than 38 games have been completed for the interactive multimedia system in the U.S. Thirty titles are available in stores nationwide and 18 games have been completed for the 3DO system in Japan.

Officials at 3DO anticipate 43 titles will be available by the end of this month and about 100 by the end of the year.

**** Commodore International Liquidates ****

Commodore International Ltd. is going out of business. Reports say

the firm will transfer its assets to unidentified trustees for the benefit of its creditors and already has placed its major subsidiary, Commodore Electronics Ltd., into voluntary liquidation.

In a brief statement, Commodore said, "This is the initial phase of an orderly voluntary liquidation of both companies."

The company last month reported an \$8.2 million loss for the quarter ending Dec. 31 on sales of \$70.1 million. A year earlier, Commodore lost \$77.2 million on sales of \$237.7 million in the same period.

**** Compaq Jumps to 1994 Lead ****

The market analysts at International Data Corp. say that Compaq Computer Corp. led all other computer makers in worldwide PC sales during 1994's first quarter. IDC's figures show Compaq selling 970,000 computers world-wide in the first three months of the year, compared with 845,000 for Apple and 840,000 for IBM.

In the first quarter of last year, IBM sold 790,000 PCs, Apple sold 780,000 and Compaq sold 693,000. That is a 40% increase for Compaq, a 6.33% increase for IBM and an 8.33% increase for Apple.

**** Epson Unveils Smaller Board ****

Epson Inc. has unveiled a line of what it says are world's smallest upgraded circuit boards, the Cardio-X86 "computer on a card" containing a F8680A central processing unit and controllers for video, keyboards and other peripherals. The Cardio-86 measures 85.6 millimeters by 54 millimeters.

To be sold to computer device manufacturers, the board joins a similar device already in production that features a clone of Intel's Corp. '386 microprocessor.

**** Superbase Line to Be Sold ****

Software Publishing Corp. has signed a letter of intent to sell its Superbase product line and related assets to Computer Concepts Corp. Superbase is a Windows-based relational database.

**** Compaq to Work on V-Conferencing ****

A five- year strategic alliance for development of videoconferencing products is being formed by Compaq Computer Corp. and PictureTel Corp., the world's largest videoconferencing products concern.

Officials with the companies hope to begin shipping products under alliance next year. They also want to develop joint marketing programs and promotions that take advantage of each others' established presence in the PC and videoconferencing markets.

PictureTel and its chief rival, Compression Labs Inc. control most of the video conferencing equipment market.

**** Microsoft Releases Access 2.0 ****

Microsoft Corp. this week said that Microsoft Access, Version 2.0 will be on store shelves on Friday. Reports say that the newest version of this database management system is the first desktop database to bridge the gap between the needs of end users and those of developers.

Microsoft is expecting a big demand for the new program and has already shipped 100,000 copies to fill initial reseller orders.

**** Xerox, Novell Form Alliance ****

Xerox Corp. and Novell Inc. have formed a strategic partnership to develop technology that will allow users to more easily track down, use and share documents.

The first product to be released under the new alliance is called Document Enabled Networking for Novell NetWare. The two firms said DEN will help software developers create programs that act as "document detectives," allowing users anywhere along a Novell NetWare network to quickly and automatically locate and retrieve documents, regardless where they are stored.

**** IBM Adds to PS/1 Line ****

IBM has added four new computers to their PS/1 line. This includes a 486SX-33 MHz configuration and 486DX2-66/33 MHz systems. Hard drives in the new models range from 170MB to 720MB. Prices on the computers range from \$1,299 to \$2,599.

**** Advanced Logic Aims at Low End ****

A line of Express PCs desktop systems retailing for as little as \$745 is being introduced by Advanced Logic Research Inc. Sources say "While long a contender among builders of high- and mid-end computers, the new ALR Express PC models are designed to compete with lines such as the Compaq Prolinea and Hewlett Packard Vectra."

Features of the new PC include easily upgradable processors and disk drive bays that allow quick access. All also comply with new federal standards on saving energy, powering down to as little as 30 watts when left idle.

**** Canon to Unveil New Screen ****

A new kind of liquid crystal display for portable computers that retains data when the power is off is expected from Canon Inc. by the end of the year. Reports say the displays are likely to be far easier to make in large versions than LCDs currently available, and may be the key to future large wall-mounted televisions.

**** Broderbund and Elec. Arts Merger Off ****

Broderbund Software and Electronic Arts announced this week the termination of their agreement to merge the two companies. As part of the deal to call off the merger, Broderbund has agreed to make a one-time

payment to Electronic Arts of \$10 million.

**** FTC Rules on Hayes Modem Ads ****

The Federal Trade Commission is proposing a settlement in its two-year probe of alleged false and misleading advertising by modem-maker Hayes Microcomputer Products Inc.

The issue centers on Hayes' controversial 1992 advertisements in 14 magazines that carried the chilling claim, "A Time Bomb may be lurking in your modem." The ad went on to assert any modem that didn't contain the Hayes escape sequence technology put users in danger of losing data.

In an investigation, the FTC said Hayes had no reasonable basis to make such claims as one that going with Hayes technology was "the only way to be completely protected."

Sources said "Under a proposed settlement of the charge, Hayes does not admit wrongdoing but promises not to engage in escape sequence advertising that it can't back up with 'competent and reliable evidence.'"

**** Toshiba Cuts Prices 20% ****

Toshiba America Information Systems Inc. has reduced prices up to 20% on selected portable computers, effective immediately. Toshiba said prices were cut on the entire Satellite notebook line, the T4700 high-performance notebook and the Portege T3400 monochrome ultra portable.

**** New TI Notebooks Unveiled ****

Texas Instruments Inc. has unveiled its new line of TravelMate 4000M notebook computers, four models selling in the U.S. for between \$2,149 and \$5,299. The units range in weight from 5.9 pounds to 6.4 pounds. Hard disk drives are available with capacities from 120MB to 340MB. Display options include monochrome, advanced color and active color matrix.

**** Microsoft Supports HP Printers ****

Microsoft Corp. is now supporting the Hewlett-Packard LaserJet 4 Plus and the LaserJet 4M Plus printers, a move that will bring improved printing to users of Microsoft Windows 3.1 and Windows for Workgroups, reports Business Wire.

The printers, based on a 12 ppm print engine, high-speed RISC processor, advanced memory management and other enhancements, provide 30 to 40 percent faster printing than their predecessors. Bidirectional communication allows users to monitor printer status from the desktop, and, by using the optional Hewlett-Packard JetDirect card and JetPrint utility, users can also get printer status in a networked environment through a virtual-printer front panel.

**** Novell Alleges More Piracy ****

Network publisher Novell Inc. has sued another firm for allegedly

SINGAPORE -- March 1, 1994 -- Creative Technology, developer of the Sound Blaster(TM) PC audio standard, today at Intermedia launched Sound Blaster AWE32(TM), Creative's most advanced audio card to date.

Sound Blaster AWE32 combines the powerful features of Creative's award-winning Sound Blaster 16 Advanced Signal Processing card with the great sounding Advanced WavEffects(TM) digital sample playback synthesis capabilities of E-mu Systems'(R) EMU8000 integrated audio DSP. It has a suggested retail price of \$399.95 and will begin shipping to major distributors and resellers worldwide within the next two weeks.

"The audio consumer has become extremely sophisticated. With the introduction of Sound Blaster AWE32, Creative is furthering its goal of offering consumers high-performance features at a great price point and delivering the type of superior sound and speech quality that they have come to expect from Creative," said K.S. Chay, Creative Technology's president and COO.

Rich Sorkin, director of audio products for Creative Technology's U.S. subsidiary Creative Labs, added that "in addition to providing a solution for musicians who want to create professional quality music, Sound Blaster AWE32 provides the ideal platform for developers to create an emotionally engaging multimedia experience through the use of multiple channel audio, downloadable sounds (E-mu's[R] SoundFont(TM) collections) and state-of-the-art special effects. As a result, Sound Blaster AWE32 owners will be able to benefit from a great selection of entertainment software titles that take advantage of our next generation audio technology."

Advanced Signal Processing

Creative's Advanced Signal Processor, a programmable DSP, performs real-time compression and decompression of audio files. It also features Creative TextAssist(TM) advanced text-to-speech synthesis and QSound(TM) 180 degree virtual audio. For voice-annotating documents, Creative offers two options for compressing and decompressing speech data - FastSpeech 8 and FastSpeech 10. FastSpeech 8 compresses data to one eighth its original size and FastSpeech 10 compresses data to one tenth its original size. Because FastSpeech compresses data in real-time, users do not need to conduct off-line processing.

Advanced Audio Technology

E-mu's patented digital sample playback technology, which is incorporated into Creative's Advanced WavEffects synthesis, is based on the EMU8000 audio DSP and features CD quality, real instrument sounds that surpass the audio quality produced by wave table synthesis technology.

Many of the features of Sound Blaster AWE32 are traditionally only available with high-end professional audio products that often cost thousands of dollars. It supports multi-timbral MIDI channels with 32-voice polyphony as well as independent control of advanced special effects (reverb, chorus or QSound), vibrato (pitch oscillation) and tremolo (volume oscillation) for each of its 32 voices. Additional advanced audio features include state-of-the art pitch-shifting techniques, resonance filters that control the timbre of each instrument when played at different dynamic levels, a six-part amplitude envelope, and a six-part auxiliary envelope for independent controlling of pitch and timbre.

Compatibility

As with Creative's entire family of standard-setting 16-bit audio boards, Sound Blaster AWE32 offers 16-bit CD-quality stereo sampling and playback up to 44.1 kHz. Sound Blaster AWE32 supports the Sound Blaster platform and is fully compatible with General MIDI, Sound Canvas and MT-32 specifications. The audio card also supports three of the most popular single and double speed CD-ROM drives on the market from Sony, Mitsumi, and Creative.

Sound Blaster AWE32 supports E-mu Systems' SoundFont audio library of sampled sounds, which have been widely regarded as the finest musical instrument and sound effects samples available. Additional samples from the SoundFont library can be downloaded into AWE32's on-board 4 megabit DRAM chip (which can be expanded to 28 megabyte of RAM) to bring added variety and flexibility of sounds to the user.

Bundled Software

Software bundled with Sound Blaster AWE32 includes Creative VoiceAssist(TM), Creative's premier speech recognition software for Windows applications; Creative TextAssist(TM), a text-to-speech system based on Digital Equipment Corp.'s DECtalk technology; Qsound Virtual Audio, a 180 degree sound localization technology; WaveStudio, Creative's wave file editor; Creative Ensemble, a set of software applications for playback of wave, CD and MIDI files that resembles a home "hi-fi" system; HSC Interactive SE; Cakewalk Apprentice, an easy-to-use yet powerful sequencer software program; and a variety of other utilities specifically developed by Creative for its family of Sound Blaster audio boards.

Founded in 1972, E-mu Systems, Inc. is a leading provider of innovative digital audio products based on digital sampling technology for the musical instrument and multimedia markets. The company is a wholly owned subsidiary of Creative Technology, Ltd., and is headquartered in Scotts Valley, Calif.

Creative Technology Ltd. develops, manufactures and markets a family of sound and video multimedia products for IBM-compatible PCs. The company's Sound Blaster sound platform enables IBM-compatible PCs to produce high-quality audio for entertainment, educational, music and productivity PC-based applications.

Creative Technology Ltd. was incorporated in 1983 and is based in Singapore. Creative Technology's U.S. subsidiaries include Creative Labs, Inc., E-mu Systems, Inc. and ShareVision(R) Technology, Inc. Creative also has other subsidiaries in the U.S., Europe, Japan, Singapore, Taiwan and China. The Company's stock is traded on the NASDAQ National Market System under the symbol CREAf.

Creative TextAssist Ships with Sound Blaster AWE32

Creative Technology's Text-to-Speech Software Based on
Digital Equipment Corp.'s DECtalk Technology

SINGAPORE -- March 1, 1994 -- Creative Technology (CREAf) today announced that its Creative TextAssist(TM) text-to-speech software will begin shipping in the next two weeks with Sound Blaster AWE32(TM), also announced today at Intermedia. Creative TextAssist,

which is comprised of a set of five Windows-based applications, utilizes Digital Equipment Corp.'s DECTalk technology and features realistic voice-quality, flexibility and easy integration into the Windows operating system.

"Creative TextAssist provides the finest text-to-speech technology available on any platform today. When used in conjunction with Creative's VoiceAssist(TM) speech recognition software, Creative TextAssist creates a complete solution for hands-free, PC-based conversational applications," said Rich Sorkin, director of audio products for Creative Technology's U.S. subsidiary Creative Labs. "While voice technology will continue to play a prominent role in the home and assistive technology markets, we expect that the demand for this technology in the business environment will continue to increase, particularly with regard to document proofreading, remote talking e-mail and talking faxes."

Creative TextAssist, which utilizes the added horsepower provided by Creative's onboard Advanced Signal Processor, operates with any Windows application that features text. Users can create their own voices or choose from the nine predefined voices in American English (four male, four female, one child). Future versions of TextAssist will offer foreign language support as well as support for DOS, OS/2 and Macintosh platforms.

Included with TextAssist are five software programs:

- *TextTo'LE embeds text-to-speech objects into OLE client applications.
- *TextAssist Control Panel allows users to create new voices or associate existing voices with Windows Applications.
- *TextAssist Reader reads aloud specified text.
- *TextAssist Dictionary allows user to customize pronunciation of application-specific words.
- *Talking Scheduler verbally reminds user of their appointments.

Within the next month, Creative TextAssist will also begin shipping with Creative's line of 16-bit Sound Blaster(TM) boards with Advanced Signal Processing and the Sound Blaster DigitalEdge CD(TM) multimedia upgrade kit.

TextAssist Upgrades

A TextAssist upgrade will be available to current registered owners of Sound Blaster 16 with Advanced Signal Processing for \$29.95. An Advanced Signal Processor upgrade featuring Creative TextAssist will be available to Sound Blaster 16 owners for \$99.95.

A TextAssist developer kit will be available for \$99.95 on March 15, 1994. The kit includes the TextAssist API in the form of a Dynamic Link Library (DLL), which can be used to integrate sophisticated text-to-speech capabilities into Windows applications. The developer kit also comes with a royalty-free license for developers to distribute the TextAssist API DLL with their applications.

Creative Technology Ltd. develops, manufactures and markets a family of sound and video multimedia products for IBM-compatible PCs. The company's Sound Blaster sound platform enables IBM-compatible PCs to produce high-quality audio for entertainment, educational, music and productivity PC-based applications.

Creative Technology Ltd. was incorporated in 1983 and is based in Singapore. Creative Technology's U.S. subsidiaries include Creative

KidDesk Family Edition requires Windows 3.1 being run on a 386 or better CPU, 4 megs of ram, VGA display, a mouse and about 2 megs of hard drive space. Also recommended is a sound card capable of digitized sound, a microphone and a printer. If the child has special needs, Family Edition works with a TouchWindow which Edmark sells directly to the consumer. KidDesk Family Edition supports color printers if you have the proper printer drivers for Windows.

Family Edition has many new accessories and features. Now included is e-mail, voice mail, a note pad, and an address card file. Voice mail only works if you have a sound card that can record sound with a microphone. To send voice mail, click on the telephone on the desktop, then choose the icon of the person to whom you wish to send a message. You may then record a message. You can play the message to be sure it is perfect and then hit the send button to end the e-mail process. Voice mail is received on the answering machine. If a red light is blinking, this indicates messages are waiting. Click on the machine and then you can listen to the messages of your choosing. You can also record a message for people to hear when they send a voice-mail message to you.

E-mail works much like a bulletin board. Click on the mailbox and you are presented with icons for all incoming mail on one side of the screen and on the other side are the icons for all the people installed on KidDesk Family Edition. Simply click on an incoming letter icon to read the message. Click on the icon of a user to send mail to that person and a text editor will appear on the screen. Type in your message and then click on the airmail icon to complete the message. You may print out hardcopies of both incoming and outgoing mail. Each letter can only be one page long. If Family Edition is properly configured, it is possible to send the same letter to multiple users if you desire.

The notepad allows the user to leave one page messages to himself or he can use the selection of borders to make stationery and send letters to friends. The notepad can also be used for To Do Lists or for printing out a daily journal. Four sizes of fonts are available so much information can be squeezed onto the single page if necessary.

The final new accessory is the address card file. All entries are automatically alphabetized by the first letter typed in the name. If you wish to alphabetize by last name, you must enter the last name first and then the first name. Fields are also available for the address, phone, birthday and notes on each entry. This would be a very handy way of keeping track of the birthdays of all your children's friends. Individual entries may be printed or the entire address card file may be printed out.

The one major advantage of Family Edition is that it will run any Windows program that will run under your system under Windows alone. In my review of KidDesk for DOS, I mentioned that Alphabet Blocks did not run properly under KidDesk. It now runs flawlessly under the Family Edition. DOS programs are a bit of a challenge. Some of them will not run too well under Windows because they want to grab system resources away from Windows. In Family Edition, you have the option to run DOS programs from DOS. By toggling a switch in the application setup, choosing that DOS program will cause Family Edition to exit Windows and start the program in DOS. When the child exits that program, Windows will restart and then reload KidDesk Family Edition. This causes a delay in loading programs, but it does insure that all DOS programs will work.

Family Edition is not limited to children. You can set up a "Kid" for any friend or family member who will be using the computer. I have my wife's

first Windows-based comm package to support RIPscrip from Telegraphix Inc. of Huntington Beach, CA., the defacto graphics standard for BBS systems. (Bulletin Board Systems)

With the introduction of version 1.1, QmodemPro for Windows has the ability to receive Fax and data calls in host mode, a limited feature BBS program that allows users to set up their personal computers to receive incoming modem calls. The host mode has a built-in message, file and paging system, key elements found in many of the major BBS packages, including MSI's own WILDCAT! BBS package.

For QmodemPro's Host Mode to recognize an incoming call as originating from a FAX machine, all that's needed in a Fax-modem that issues a "FAX CONNECT" result code. QmodemPro supports the "Call Selection" feature used for returning FAX information on the "Courier" line of high speed FAX/Data modems from U.S. Robotics, Skokie, IL..

Fax Modems from other manufacturers supporting the call selection feature can be easily configured to operate with QmodemPro by easily editing the Host mode script language. By not "hard coding" this feature into the program itself, MSI has ensured that QmodemPro is able to support any current or future modem that may appear on the market.

The Host Mode is written entirely using MSI's own Script Language Interface for Qmodem (SLIQ) which is based on the BASIC computer language. This enables the user to edit the Host Mode by changing the source code and recompiling it using QmodemPro's Integrated Compiler and Debugger.

Sending a FAX from QmodemPro is greatly simplified with ver. 1.1. The package now allows the user to configure QMPRO as a "Printer Driver" thus, allowing documents to be faxed directly from any Windows Application.

Ultimately, the user sends the fax by using the Windows application's document print function and selecting QMPRO as the printer. This procedure launches QmodemPro, pulls up the dialing directory thus allowing the user to choose the phone number of the fax recipient. After prompting the user for cover page information, QMPRO proceeds to send the fax.

QmodemPro for Windows 1.1 is available immediately from MSI at a suggested retail price of \$139.00

QmodemPro for Windows may download a free upgrade to version 1.1 by dialing MSI's Support BBS at 1-805-873-2400. Additionally, the upgrade may be downloaded from any one of MSI's Support areas on CompuServe, America Online and GENie. A new set of QmodemPro disks may be obtained for the nominal fee of \$23.00.

MSI may be reached at the following numbers:

1-805-873-2500 - Business Office
1-800-999-9619 - Order Line

MUSTANG SOFTWARE INC.

Mustang Software Inc. (MSI) is the leading single source supplier of bulletin board (BBS) systems and related software. MSI has well over thirty thousand registered users of it's WILDCAT! Software and an additional eighty thousand registered users of its world famous Qmodem Pro

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Unsurpassed Productivity

1. MULTIPLE, SIDE-BY-SIDE PREVIEWS OF CHANGES

Whether a user is trying out filters, effects, or color corrections, PhotoStyler provides three previews of the image within each dialog box: one with the original settings, and two test copies that can be adjusted independently. This Multi-Preview capability allows users to try out and compare changes before committing them to the original image. Moreover, users can examine the previews at either a 1:1 or fit-in-window view. The 1:1 ratio provides an accurate, pixel-level representation of the effects anywhere the user chooses within the image, while the full view provides a way to check overall results.

For every effect for which it offers a preview, Adobe Photoshop provides only one preview, with no option to compare original settings to alternative ones before applying changes. (The only exception is the Variations dialog box, discussed below.) When available, adjustments are previewed on the main image window that's open on the screen, at whatever ratio the image happens to be at, such as 1:1 or 1:4. For dialog boxes without previews, the change must be applied to the actual image. If the change isn't right, the user must undo the change and reopen the dialog box for further adjustments.

Adobe Photoshop's Variations dialog box does show either two or six before-and-after thumbnail previews of changes (depending on the effect applied). Unlike in PhotoStyler, however, this multiple-preview option is available only for adjusting the color balance, contrast, and saturation.

2. ABILITY TO LOAD ONLY PART OF AN IMAGE

To reduce image processing time and increase the amount of RAM available for image manipulation, PhotoStyler users can opt to load only a portion of an image into memory for editing. They can choose precisely what portion they want as they open the file or at any time during editing. Once editing is complete, the loaded portion can be saved back into the original image or saved as a separate file. This capability increases user efficiency and product performance by allowing image editors to work on large images a piece at a time.

Adobe Photoshop does not offer this capability. Users must always load all of an image, which can't help but increase image-processing time and decrease available RAM for editing large images.

3. IMAGE NAVIGATOR FOR CONSTANT BIRD'S-EYE VIEW OF ACTIVE IMAGE

PhotoStyler 2.0 comes with an Image Navigator that provides a thumbnail, bird's-eye view of the active image at all times. This optional palette makes users more productive in three ways: by helping them keep track of where they are in the full picture while they work at the pixel level; by showing the overall results of up-close changes; and by letting

them quickly select exactly where to go in an image without panning, scrolling, or zooming out from the current view. The Image Navigator also provides shortcuts for going to fit-to-screen, 1:1, or any other magnification level. PS Adobe Photoshop does not provide a feature similar to the Image Navigator. Users must constantly rely on the grabber hand, scroll bars, magnification tool, and many zoom commands to move around in an image, check the overall results of a change, and keep track of where they are in a picture.

4. MEMORY-USAGE INDICATOR

PhotoStyler has a memory-usage indicator to help users keep track of the amount of free RAM and free virtual memory available to PhotoStyler. The indicator provides numeric values of free memory, as well as a colored dot that indicates how the memory is being allocated--using RAM only or RAM plus the hard-drive memory (i.e., virtual memory). Based on this information, the user may choose to adjust the memory usage and thereby improve the program's performance by turning off the Undo function, resampling the image, editing only a portion of the image at a time, or performing similar actions that PhotoStyler supports. PS Adobe Photoshop 2.5.1 does not offer this capability, so the user doesn't have the access to how memory resources are being used.

5. PRACTICE PAD FOR TESTING BRUSH SETTINGS

The Practice Pad in Aldus PhotoStyler enables users to test all paint settings--such as brush width, paint flow, transparency, and so on--before applying them to an image. Users can practice on the current background color, on a standard color test pattern, or on a copy of any portion of the actual image. The latter option is particularly useful, for it allows image editors to practice with the tool precisely where they'll use it in the image. And in case they get it just right in the Practice Pad, PhotoStyler provides an "Apply" button to transfer the practice strokes to the actual image, saving the effort of trying to duplicate them. PS Adobe Photoshop does not offer this capability.

6. ABILITY TO TEST AND APPLY MULTIPLE TRANSFORMATIONS AT ONCE

PhotoStyler 2.0 has an innovative Multi-Transform dialog box that lets users try out multiple transformations on a low-resolution version of an image, see the cumulative effect, and apply all changes at once to the image. These transformations include re-sizing, skewing, rotating, adding perspective, and similar functions. Multi-Transform also shows all changes in real time--that is, PhotoStyler redraws the screen at the same speed that the user makes adjustments, so that visual feedback is immediate. This saves time by helping the user achieve the right results the first time. Adobe Photoshop allows users to apply only one transformation at a time, hampering experimentation and increasing the time it takes to get to the final result. It does not provide real-time screen redraw for transformations.

7. DRAG-AND-DROP COPYING OF SELECTIONS BETWEEN WINDOWS

PhotoStyler provides drag-and-drop copying between windows, bypassing the standard copy-and-paste operation through the clipboard. In one motion, the user can either cut or copy the selection from an original image and transfer it to another, even without selecting the second image.

Adobe Photoshop does not offer this capability. Moving selections between images requires three steps: cut or copy the selection to the clipboard, select the other image, and paste the selection from the clipboard.

8. ELECTRONIC LOUPE

Aldus PhotoStyler provides a unique magnification tool, called the Magnification Loupe, that simulates a traditional loupe. As the user moves the tool over an image, only the portion of the image that's beneath the loupe is enlarged. This enables a user to check on details quickly, without wasting time zooming and panning. Users can set the loupe's magnification level from 1x to 4x, and can resize the loupe.

Adobe Photoshop does not offer this capability.

9. ABILITY TO OPEN AND CLOSE MULTIPLE IMAGES AT A TIME

PhotoStyler lets users select and open any number of images at once from either the "Open" dialog box or the Album. They also can close only the active image, multiple selected images, or all images at once. Like other Windows applications, PhotoStyler supports the ability to open multiple files from the Windows File Manager by dragging and dropping files onto the PhotoStyler application workspace or icon.

Adobe Photoshop users can select and open only one image at a time from the "Open" dialog box. To open multiple images at once requires multiple trips to the dialog box, or a return to the Windows File Manager for drag-and-drop file opening. Adobe Photoshop can close images only one at a time or all at once; it cannot close several selected images at a time.

10. WINDOW MANAGER FOR HANDLING MULTIPLE OPEN IMAGES

Several standard operations such as saves, closes, changes in views, and adjustments to image resolution can be applied to multiple images at the same time using the Window Manager in PhotoStyler.

Adobe Photoshop does not offer this capability. All similar operations must be performed on one image at a time.

11. UNDO OF MULTIPLE PAINTING ACTIONS AT ONCE

In Aldus PhotoStyler, several painting and image-editing tools (airbrush, paintbrush, pencil, smudge, blur, dodge and burn, and so on) provide the option of undoing all actions recently done with that tool, or just the last action. (For example, when users draw four lines, they can delete all four at once, or only the last one drawn.) This feature provides greater flexibility when painting and retouching images.

Adobe Photoshop can undo only the most recent stroke made with its tools.

12. SELECTIVE UNDO FOR PAINTING TOOLS

Using the right mouse button, PhotoStyler 2.0 users can selectively undo (i.e., drag over to erase) any part of what they've added using a painting tool, without losing the rest of the strokes. This selective undo works for all painting tools and provides the flexibility needed to apply an effect and then remove any part of it--valuable when correcting

painting mistakes or fine-tuning a dodge and burn, for example.

Adobe Photoshop does not offer this capability.

13. BETTER ERASER TOOL

Aldus PhotoStyler's eraser tool allows the user to erase an image to white, black, or the background color, or to the last-saved version of the image. Users can also control the opacity, edge softness, shape, and size of the erasing tool. This flexibility provides a great deal of creative control--for example, users can apply a series of effects to an image, and then use a partially opaque, customized brush to selectively remove part of the added effects.

Adobe Photoshop's magic eraser tool provides only a fixed-size, hard-edge eraser that can erase only to the current background color or to the last-saved version, without any control over opacity.

14. BETTER SPEED FOR STANDARD FUNCTIONS

Benchmarks on an 8MB image show that Aldus PhotoStyler 2.0 is an average 33% faster than Adobe Photoshop in the application of filters and effects. Tests on a 10MB image show that PhotoStyler is 10% to 500% faster for general functions, such as painting, computations, and file handling (including opening, closing, cutting and pasting, and duplicating). Out of 93 benchmark tests performed, Aldus PhotoStyler was faster in two-thirds of the functions.

Although Adobe Photoshop's performance speeds beat PhotoStyler speeds in a third of the tests, the program showed a significantly slower performance than PhotoStyler as images got larger, due to slower handling of virtual memory.

15. MORE VERSATILE BORDERS CAPABILITY

When creating a border from a selection marquee, PhotoStyler 2.0 lets image editors control the border's width, position, and edge, as well as preview the border before committing to the settings. They can set borders from 1 to 256 pixels wide, and control the softness or sharpness of the edges by a value of 0 to 150. They can create the border on the outside or inside of the selection's marquee, or have it straddle the marquee evenly.

Adobe Photoshop users can control only a border's width (1 to 64 pixels), not also its placement and edge. The program always straddles the border over the selection marquee (half the width inside, and half the width outside). Adobe Photoshop does not provide a preview of borders.

16. ABILITY TO DISABLE UNDO FOR INCREASED MEMORY

The Undo function in PhotoStyler can be disabled to increase the amount of memory available to manipulate an image. An image that takes up 15MB of RAM, for example, might need an additional 15MB of memory to support the Undo function. By turning off Undo, users regain that extra 15MB of memory. Undo can easily be turned on again right before a comparatively drastic change that the user might want to undo.

Adobe Photoshop does not offer this capability.

17. ABILITY TO EMPTY THE UNDO BUFFER

For those times when a user doesn't want to turn off Undo to regain memory for image manipulation, PhotoStyler also provides a way to simply empty the Undo buffer of its current contents. (The Undo buffer stores what the image looked like before the current change was made.) Much like emptying a trash can, clearing the buffer "dumps" the memory reserved for undoing the last action and releases the RAM for the next operation. Being able to free this memory gives the user even more control over the program's performance when handling larger images.

Adobe Photoshop does not offer this capability.

18. MORE FLEXIBLE MAGIC WAND

The PhotoStyler magic wand (a tool used for selecting areas within an image based on the color or grayscale values of the pixels) provides more controls and options than Adobe Photoshop offers. In PhotoStyler, the wand can select colors or gray-scale values based on one specific pixel, or it can take the average of the colors within any rectangular, freehand, or straightline selection the user drags. The tolerance setting for color similarity can range from 0 to 255, and the wand can work with a variety of selection criteria (RGB, HSB, Hue Only, Saturation Only, Brightness Only, RGB Range, and HSB Range). For times when a current selection isn't quite right, PhotoStyler has an "Update" button that lets the image editor quickly change the criteria and update the selection without first deselecting the area. PhotoStyler can also add, subtract, and find the intersection of multiple selections made with the magic wand.

Adobe Photoshop's magic wand can only select colors based on one specific pixel or upon the average of an area that is 3x3 or 5x5 pixels. Like PhotoStyler, it provides tolerance levels from 0 to 255 for color similarity, but this is the only selection criterion it offers. Adobe Photoshop has no way to reduce the current selection based on a new tolerance setting unless the user deselects the area, changes the criterion, and then starts the selection over again. The program can add and subtract multiple magicwand selections, but it can't take the intersection of multiple selections.

19. REMOVE HOLES COMMAND

When created with several selection tools or cumulative criteria, an active selection will often end up with "holes"--unselected areas in a large field of active pixels. PhotoStyler has a Remove Holes command to turn this kind of complex selection into a contiguous selection in one step.

Adobe Photoshop cannot create a contiguous selection area from a non-contiguous ones. The user must manually lasso or draw a marquee around the holes, which can require extra zooming and careful drawing.

20. HARDER WORKING "OPEN" DIALOG BOX

The "Open" dialog box in Aldus PhotoStyler provides much more than standard file and directory listings. A thumbnail preview enables users to see and crop an image before they open it, or to select just a part of the image to load and edit. Sort and search functions help users locate files by parameters such as creation date, file size, and filename. Other options let them open an image at screen resolution, open a copy of the

image, or load multiple images at once. From this dialog box, users can also gain information about a selected file (its size, color mode, format, location, and so on), set several file options (such as which resolution a Kodak Photo CD image will open at), and gain access to color management controls and PhotoStyler image Albums.

Besides the standard directory and file listings, Adobe Photoshop's "Open" dialog box provides only an image's name and file size. It does not provide a thumbnail preview, nor any of the other quick-access features that PhotoStyler offers.

21. SNAP-TO-EDGE FOR FREE SELECTIONS

A PhotoStyler user can opt to make the free-selection tool find the edges in an image automatically. This provides an easy way to isolate objects from an image or an image from its background.

Adobe Photoshop's lasso tool does not offer this capability.

22. SUPPORT OF VIRTUAL MEMORY FOR ALL FILTERS

All of the effects and image-correction filters that come with Aldus PhotoStyler 2.0 can take advantage of a computer's virtual memory. Thus users can apply these filters to an image that's larger than available RAM.

Many filters that come with Adobe Photoshop 2.5.1 do not support virtual memory. Most notably, all the Distort filters (Displace, Pinch, Polar Coordinates, Ripple, Shear, Spherize, Twirl, Wave, and Zig-Zag) can work only with images that are small enough to fit into the computer's available RAM. The Lens Flare, Pointillize, and Crystalize filters also have some limitations based on available RAM. Such restrictions can severely limit the size of images these filters can be applied to.

23. ABILITY TO BACKTRACK TO CORRECT A FREEHAND SELECTION

When an image editor uses the free-selection tool to draw a selection, it's not uncommon to go astray from the intended course. Applying the Backspace key enables users to correct their in-progress selection by backing up point by point or pixel by pixel, and then continuing with the selection again.

The lasso tool in Adobe Photoshop provides no option for correcting a selection while the user creates it. To achieve the same kind of marquee-editing ability, an image editor must use the pen tool to draw a path, and then convert the path to a marquee.

24. RATE OF FLOW FOR PAINTBRUSH TOOL

Among several other options, the Aldus PhotoStyler paintbrush allows users to set the rate of paint flow to more accurately simulate the behavior of real brushes.

Adobe Photoshop does not offer this capability.

25. AUTOMATIC TEXT SHADOWS

PhotoStyler provides an option for creating text shadows automatically. Shadows can be offset in positive and negative values by an amount equal to the size of the text, and can be given their own color.

Adobe Photoshop does not create shadows automatically. Users must duplicate, offset, and recolor text to achieve the same results.

26. EASY EDITING AND UPDATING OF FLOATING TEXT

In PhotoStyler, users have a choice of entering text as a mask, a floating selection, or directly onto the image. When entered as a floating selection, the text can be readily reformatted, resized, moved, and edited until the user accepts it as final text.

All text in Adobe Photoshop is entered as floating but it is not editable. To edit or reformat the text requires deleting it and starting over.

27. ABILITY TO IMPORT AND PASTE TEXT FROM OTHER SOURCES

Aldus PhotoStyler can import text files of up to 50 lines, and can accept text pasted from the clipboard. These options save users from typing all their text in place.

Adobe Photoshop does not offer this capability. All text must be typed from scratch into an image.

28. SKETCH OVERLAY FOR ADDING COMMENTS

Acting much like a tissue overlay, an optional Sketch Overlay in PhotoStyler enables an image editor, art director, or reviewer to add comments to an image, say, to indicate edits, corrections, or other requested alterations. The overlay is also a valuable tool for verifying that work on an image has been completed as originally envisioned.

Adobe Photoshop does not offer this capability.

29. MORE EXTENSIVE IMAGE INFORMATION

A single dialog box in Aldus PhotoStyler provides full information about any image, including its format, resolution, name, and location on the hard drive; its color mode and dimensions; and its actual file size and file size on disk (these differ if the image has been compressed). This Image Information box also indicates an image's current status--for example, whether it's been modified, whether a current partial edit is active, how many views of it are currently open, whether an OLE client is using the image, and so on.

Adobe Photoshop provides only a smattering of the image information that PhotoStyler gives--namely, an image's dimensions, resolution, actual image size, color mode, and color channels in use.

30. SIMULTANEOUS HORIZONTAL AND VERTICAL FLIPPING

PhotoStyler provides a time-saving command that will flip an image both horizontally and vertically in one step.

Adobe Photoshop 2.5.1 requires the user to perform each operation separately.

31. MORE VERSATILE VIRTUAL-MEMORY SUPPORT

PhotoStyler 2.0 supports up to four hard drives simultaneously for

swapping out virtual memory. This provides greater flexibility to the user, as well as the ability to handle exceptionally large images. Users can set up PhotoStyler to use a particular directory on a drive for memory swapping, and can reconfigure the virtual-memory drives without leaving PhotoStyler.

Adobe Photoshop supports only two drives for virtual-memory swapping and does not let a user specify which directory to use for memory swapping. Also, the user must exit Adobe Photoshop to reconfigure virtual-memory drives.

32. ON-CALL SYSTEM INFORMATION

PhotoStyler provides access to complete information about the user's computer and operating system from within the program. Users can find out their system's configuration, the resolution of their devices (monitor, printers, and scanners), which printers and scanners are active, the amount of virtual and free memory in use, their monitor's aspect ratio, and Windows information. They can also gain read-only access to all configuration files, WIN.INI and other system .INI files, and the PhotoStyler "ReadMe" files.

Adobe Photoshop does not offer this capability.

33. MORE FLEXIBLE RESTORE

PhotoStyler gives the user a choice of how much information to restore during a revert: the whole image without any mask; a selected part of the image; only the mask; or the whole image plus the mask. These options enable a user to retain specific changes and throw out the rest. Restoring only part of an image also saves image-reloading time.

During a full revert, Adobe Photoshop 2.5.1 always restores the entire image, consuming the same amount of time whether the previous changes were large or small. Version 2.5.1 users can also fill (in essence, "revert") selected areas of an image using either the saved version of the file or a "snapshot" they've previously taken of the image.

34. BATCH-CONVERSION OF FILE TYPES

Using the Album, PhotoStyler users can convert any number of files at once from one file type to another, such as from TIFFo to Targa, or from Kodak Photo CD to BMP, with a single command. None of the files have to be loaded to make the conversion.

Adobe Photoshop users can convert only one file at a time by first loading it and then using "Save as" to give the file a new format.

35. REAL-TIME PREVIEWS OF IMAGE COMPUTATIONS

Like Adobe Photoshop, Aldus PhotoStyler provides image computations for controlling exactly how one image acts upon another when they are subtracted, added, blended, composited, shifted, and so on. Unlike in Adobe Photoshop, however, the computation dialog box in PhotoStyler 2.0 provides a visual reference of which images and masks are being manipulated, as well as a real-time preview at either fit-in-window or 1:1 view of the results of the computations. Thus users can see precisely what images and masks they're working with, and can also be sure that the results are what they expect and want before they apply the settings.

Adobe Photoshop supplies only a text-based dialog box for the same kind of calculations. The user selects filenames of the desired images and masks, types in values or chooses settings from pop-up menus, and must execute the calculation to find out the results (this feature has no Preview option). Because there's no visual reference to go by while selecting files, it's easy to insert the wrong image into a composite, or to layer the images incorrectly. Every correction requires a trip back to the calculation dialog box.

36. GREATER CONTROL OVER DODGE AND BURN

In Aldus PhotoStyler, the Dodge & Burn tool can adjust highlights, midtones, and shadows simultaneously, with each attribute being given different settings. The program comes with 11 predefined dodge and burn settings, such as Increase Exposure, Increase Contrast, and Darken Shadows, and users can name and save their own dodge and burn settings for future use. A selective Undo can remove (erase) either all or part of a dodge and burn action for precise control over the results.

Adobe Photoshop's dodge and burn tool can affect highlights, midtones, and shadows only one attribute at a time. Thus it takes three dodge and burn passes to achieve the same result as one pass in PhotoStyler. The program has no predefined dodge and burn settings, does not allow settings to be named and saved for later use, and has only one level of Undo for dodge and burn actions.

37. MORE COLOR-SELECTION OPTIONS WITH EYEDROPPER TOOL

The PhotoStyler eyedropper tool can select a color from a single pixel or it can take the average of the colors within any rectangular or freehand area or along any straight or freehand line. This gives the image editor more control over precisely what color to work with when adjusting or enhancing images.

Adobe Photoshop's eyedropper tool can only select the color of a single pixel in an image or take the average of a selection area of 3x3 or 5x5 pixels.

38. UP TO EIGHT COLORS WITHIN A GRADIENT FILL (BLEND)

Aldus PhotoStyler lets users include up to eight colors in the same gradient fill. The colors can be chosen from the entire color palette.

Adobe Photoshop allows only two colors (the current foreground and background colors) to be applied to the same gradient fill. Achieving the effect of multicolor gradients requires several gradient-filled objects side by side.

39. ON-SCREEN LEVELING AID FOR ROTATING IMAGES

PhotoStyler provides an on-screen leveling aid (with rotation degree display) that assists in rotating selections to a precise vertical or horizontal alignment. The user selects any two points on the image that should be level or plumb, and PhotoStyler rotates the image accordingly. This one-step feature is valuable for adjusting crooked scans and precisely aligning particular image elements, such as tables or walls, with the top or side of the image.

Adobe Photoshop does not offer this capability.

40. ABILITY TO SHIFT PIXELS WITHIN A SELECTION MARQUEE

PhotoStyler has a Shift command that moves all pixels of a selection by a specified distance within the selection boundary. The user can shift the pixels up, down, left, and right, and can control what goes into the area vacated by the moved pixels (such as a fill of the shifted-out image or of the background or foreground color). This feature extends an image editor's options for artistic effects.

Adobe Photoshop does not offer this capability.

41. MORE CONTROL WHEN CREATING NEW FILES

PhotoStyler comes with numerous predefined image sizes and resolutions for new images, including sizes for common film recorder formats, 35mm film, 4x5 film, and the current screen size. Users can choose the resolution of new images based on the current screen, target printer, active document, or custom resolutions. Image editors can also manually define the height, width, data type, and color mode of the new image.

Adobe Photoshop users must set the height, width, resolution, data type, and color mode for each new file they create in the "New" dialog box. The program has no predefined image sizes and resolutions.

42. AUTOMATIC SEQUENCE OF COMMANDS AFTER SCANNING

The PhotoStyler 2.0 user can set up a specific sequence of commands to be invoked after an image has been scanned. This makes dialog boxes open automatically in preparation for processing and color correction.

Adobe Photoshop does not offer this capability.

43. IMAGES DRAW ON-SCREEN AS THEY ARE BEING LOADED

Because large images can take a bit of time to open, PhotoStyler displays all loaded parts of an image as the image is being loaded into memory. This way, users can verify early that it's indeed the image they want; they can cancel the file loading at any time.

Adobe Photoshop does not display any part of an image until the whole image is loaded into memory. Therefore users must wait before they can verify it's the one they want. Users can cancel the file loading at any time, in case they remember that they're opening the wrong one.

44. SAVES THAT CAN BE CANCELED

Occasionally, users save an image and then realize at the last second that they're accidentally writing over the original, saving the image to the wrong directory, or not quite done making all the changes they want. PhotoStyler therefore allows users to cancel a save (or a "save as") to reclaim the file; the user can then rename the image, change directories, or make additional changes as necessary.

Adobe Photoshop does not offer this capability.

45. SUPPORT FOR MATH COPROCESSORS

PhotoStyler can take advantage of a computer's math coprocessor to speed up interpolation and many filter operations. Without this support,

users would have to wait longer for the computer to process the results of their changes.

Only the Lens Flare filter for Adobe Photoshop 2.5.1 supports math coprocessors.

ACCURATE AND CONSISTENT COLOR THAT'S EASY TO ACHIEVE

46. BUILT-IN COLOR MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (CMS)

PhotoStyler uses the KODAK PRECISION COLOR MANAGEMENT SYSTEM to bring predictable color to a computer system. A CMS is a universal color translator that interprets color among various devices, such as scanners, color monitors, and printers. With a properly configured CMS, users get consistent, accurate color through previewing, editing, and output. Because the CMS makes on-screen color more accurate, the results of image editing are more predictable in PhotoStyler, and the user ultimately wastes less time, money, and materials getting images right. CMS information can be attached to images saved as TIFF files, so applications that support the Kodak Precision Color Management System can use the information, too.

Because Adobe Photoshop has no color management capability built in, it provides no automatic controls for ensuring that the screen representation of an image accurately reflects what will end up in the final output. Usually, an image editor must work by trial and error with many controls to obtain accurate color results. Third-party CMS plug-ins are available for separate purchase, but they lack the full CMS integration that PhotoStyler offers.

47. BETTER COLOR FROM KODAK PHOTO CD IMAGES

Because PhotoStyler uses the color management system that's produced by Eastman Kodak--the creators of the Kodak Photo CD system--it can optimize Photo CD images specifically for CMYK output and separations. PhotoStyler also utilizes Kodak's own color-space conversions to translate a photo's color space into the monitor's RGB color space.

Adobe Photoshop does not have access to all the information encoded into Photo CD images, making it impossible for the program to approach the color quality that PhotoStyler can provide for Photo CD images.

48. SUPPORT FOR THE HLS COLOR MODE

PhotoStyler supports the HLS color mode (hue, lightness, and saturation) in addition to the RGB, CMYK, and HSB modes. Using the HLS mode lets image editors isolate and work with specific properties of a color, say, to adjust only the hue of a color but retain its current lightness and saturation to provide more realistic effects.

ADOBE PHOTOSHOP 2.5.1 DOES NOT SUPPORT THE HLS COLOR MODE.

49. ABILITY TO MERGE SEVERAL RANGES OF COLORS WHEN COMPOSITING IMAGES

When merging two or more images, an image editor must have control over the overlaid pixels--that is, whether the pixels within one image are opaque or transparent in relation to the other's. For ultimate control over this kind of merging, the PhotoStyler merge controls enable users to adjust the transparency for any number of discontinuous color ranges along the RGB spectrum (such as all colors between 2 and 54, 98 and 103, and 113

and 115).

Adobe Photoshop's composite controls allow only one range of colors to be merged between images, which provides much less control over the results of compositing.

50. ABILITY TO DROP OUT SINGLE COLORS WHEN MERGING IMAGES

The merging controls in PhotoStyler let users drop out a single color in an image--such as white, black, or any other solid color--by simply clicking an option to make the color transparent. This is useful when compositing images that have solid backgrounds.

Adobe Photoshop has no single command to accomplish this. Dropping out a color can be done manually, but the task requires toying with slider bars to find the right combination that will make a particular color transparent.

51. MORE FLEXIBLE INDEXED-COLOR TABLES

An image that's in indexed-color mode has a color palette that contains a fixed number of colors (256 is the most common). Like many image-editing applications, PhotoStyler gives the user access to the color definitions through "color look-up tables." Aldus PhotoStyler does, however, provide numerous editing controls that Adobe Photoshop doesn't have. Image editors can, for example, easily "walk" colors through the table to analyze an image's component colors or to create special effects. (This shifts the selected colors one entry to the right or left by moving, say, the color in the 256th location into the first location.) Users can edit colors, find and change all occurrences of a particular color or range, quickly invert colors, and automatically redefine colors so that they blend smoothly from one selection to another in the table. As for most other alterations, PhotoStyler 2.0 provides a real-time preview of the effect of color changes on the image. Being able to edit and preview the changes this way gives image editors significant control over special effects, image analysis, and how the pixels within images map to certain colors.

Adobe Photoshop allows its indexed-color table to be edited, but lacks the interactive capability to shift colors through the table. The program also cannot invert colors, redefine colors so they blend between two selected colors, or provide real-time previewing of changes to the table (the user must execute the change to see the results).

52. FOUR COLOR-PALETTE LAYOUTS

PhotoStyler 2.0 provides four different layouts for its color palette, suitable for managing screen real estate and controlling which tools should be at hand. The palettes become progressively more complete, providing information such as color-component values, the color spectrum, color wells of most recently used colors, access to Help, and secondary access to tools such as the eyedropper.

Adobe Photoshop provides only two layouts for its color palette. Both offer the foreground color, background color, and color-component percentages; the enlarged palette also adds swatches of custom colors.

53. FOURTEEN COLOR LIBRARIES

PhotoStyler provides 14 libraries of process colors: PANTONEAE*

(Coated, ProSim, Uncoated, PoSim Euro, Process, and Process Euro), Trumatch Four Color Selector, DIC Color Guide (Dainippon Ink and Chemical), Focoltone, Grays, Crayon, Munsell (High Chroma Colors and Book of Color), and ToyoPC. Users can also apply custom color libraries created in Aldus PageMaker.

Adobe Photoshop provides only eight color libraries: ANPA, Color, Focoltone, PANTONE (Coated, Process, ProSim, and Uncoated), Toyo 88 Color Finder 1050 System, and Trumatch. Users can also create custom color libraries.

SUPERIOR OUTPUT QUALITY

54. PRINT PREVIEW

In PhotoStyler, a Print Preview shows all elements that will be printed on the page, including the image itself, printer's and crop marks, labels, and tiling breaks. Users can instantly verify whether everything will fit on the output. The preview is immediately updated whenever the user alters the printing specifications, for example, to change the image's scaling, orientation, aspect ratio, or centering.

Adobe Photoshop can show only an x'd rectangle that indicates where on the piece of paper or film the image will print. It does not show the placement of labels and printer's and crop marks. Because users don't know exactly what they'll get until they print, however, they can sometimes waste valuable time and materials getting the results right.

55. TILING OF PRINTED IMAGES

Aldus PhotoStyler can automatically tile images when printing to fit large work onto multiple pages.

Adobe Photoshop has no tiling capabilities. If an image is larger than the print area, the image gets clipped during printing.

56. "SOFT PROOFING" OF COLOR OUTPUT ON SCREEN

The Kodak Precision Color Management System allows the PhotoStyler user to "soft proof" printed output to the screen for an accurate representation of what the colors will look like on any CMYK output device supported by the CMS. This softproof feature reduces wasted output and improves the user's ability to achieve accurate color correction.

Adobe Photoshop does not provide this capability.

57. THUMBNAILS CAN BE PRINTED

PhotoStyler 2.0 can print one or more thumbnails per page from its Album.

Adobe Photoshop does not provide thumbnail printing.

Program and File Integration

58. BUILT-IN IMAGE MANAGEMENT TOOLS

PhotoStyler has a feature called Album, an integrated program for cataloging, managing, searching through, viewing thumbnails of, and

tracking revisions of all images filed on a user's hard drives, CD-ROMs, and disks. Album is available at all times from an on-screen icon, as well as from the "Open" dialog box. Users can save images automatically into the Album, and add comments, keywords, and descriptions to them. They can search through or sort files by title, keyword, or file format, and can load multiple images at once into Aldus PhotoStyler. The Album is valuable for browsing through the contents of Photo CDs, which can name files only by number (rather than with more descriptive labels).

Adobe Photoshop has no image management and cataloging capabilities, and no way to view Photo CD images as thumbnails before opening them.

59. SUPPORT FOR OBJECT LINKING AND EMBEDDING (OLE)

PhotoStyler supports OLE as a server so that images can be placed into other OLE client applications, such as Aldus PageMaker, Aldus FreeHandAE, or Aldus PersuasionAE, and then updated automatically.

Adobe Photoshop 2.5.1 for Windows does not support OLE.

60. ABILITY TO ASSOCIATE FILE TYPES FROM WITHIN PHOTOSTYLER

From within PhotoStyler, users can set up any compatible image file format so that it recognizes PhotoStyler as its editing application. This way, double-clicking on an image from the Windows File Manager simultaneously launches PhotoStyler and opens the image for editing--a time saver for those who want to get their work done faster. Users can set up file associations for any image format that Aldus PhotoStyler supports, including BMP, JPEG, Targa, and TIFF images. Like other Windows applications, PhotoStyler also honors file associations created from the Windows File Manager.

Adobe Photoshop does not offer this built-in capability. Association of file types can only be done through the Windows File Manager.

61. BETTER CONTROL AND INFORMATION FOR JPEG

When saving an image in the JPEG format, PhotoStyler users can select a compression level from 1 to 100, as well as decide whether to subsample the chromatic resolution to achieve a higher compression rate. (The latter option provides settings for None, YUV422, YUV411, or CMYK4114.) All options provide better control over the degree of compression, in which a lower level loses less data than a very high level. PhotoStyler also provides access to information about the compression level and subsampling that has been applied to any JPEG image.

The only JPEG compression control that Adobe Photoshop provides is a slider-bar continuum of settings between "Fair," "Good," and "Excellent." It does not enable users to select subsampling options. There is also no way in Adobe Photoshop to determine how much an image has been compressed, or whether subsampling has even been performed.

POWERFUL AND CUSTOMIZABLE INTERFACE

62. TOOL RIBBON

PhotoStyler has an optional tool ribbon that provides quick access to all the settings for the currently selected tool or brush. This everything-at-a-glance palette provides more information in one place than

Adobe Photoshop can, and supports faster changing of attributes for every tool.

Adobe Photoshop requires the user to double-click on each tool to check or change its current settings, and to close the dialog box before using the tool, even if the settings are OK. The program's floating Brushes palette does update to show the current brush size.

63. MORE PREVIEWING METHODS

For almost every action, effect, or transformation, Aldus PhotoStyler has a way to help the user preview the results before committing to the settings. These previews include the Practice Pad for trying out paint tool settings; Multi-Preview dialog boxes for comparing the effects of all filters, effects, and color corrections between the original and two test images; optional thumbnail previews in the "Open," "Save," and "Save as" dialog boxes for examining files before loading or saving them; a Multi-Transform dialog box to verify the cumulative effect of several transformations at once; dialog boxes that show a graphical sample of the current settings for text, tools, gradient fills, and similar attributes; a Print Preview to show how all elements on a page will print; and a "soft proof" for an accurate representation of an image's colors based on the selected output device. Furthermore, PhotoStyler can provide real-time previews for all effects, regardless of the type of monitor or graphics card in use; the real-time setting is optional so that users who have slower computers can turn it off if desired.

In general, Adobe Photoshop 2.5.1 has only three types of preview methods: a Preview button in some dialog boxes to show the outcome of that particular effect on the actual image on-screen; low-resolution thumbnails in the Variations dialog box; and select dialog boxes that show a graphical sample of the current settings for text, tools, fills, and so on. (In fact, most of the effects in Adobe Photoshop have no kind of previewing capability.) Adobe Photoshop does not provide anything similar to a Practice Pad, Multi-Preview, or Multi-Transform dialog box, nor does it have thumbnails in its "Open" dialog box. It can provide previews of only one action at a time, and--except for the Variations dialog box, which shows multiple samplings for only color balance, contrast, and saturation settings--it does not provide a way to compare "before and after" changes. In addition, Adobe Photoshop can provide real-time, 24-bit previewing--for those dialog boxes that support it--only on computers that have an Adobe Photoshop compatible graphics board.

64. QUICK COMMAND PALETTE

To help speed their work, PhotoStyler users can create their own floating palette of up to 16 menu commands of their choice, such as oft-used filters, effects, and transformations. They can arrange the commands in any order they like--for example, to reflect the sequence of steps that tasks such as color correction may require. The Quick Command palette also provides an automatic cache of up to 16 most recently used commands. Image editors can create and save an unlimited number of command palettes for use with other images or other tasks. Besides enabling faster processing of images that need the same kind of enhancement, the palette lets people customize PhotoStyler for others in the production team who may not know the program's interface but who understand the editing tasks required for an image.

Adobe Photoshop does not offer this capability.

65. CUSTOMIZABLE TOOLBOX

Using drag-and-drop actions, PhotoStyler users can create their own custom toolbox within the standard floating tool palette. They can select which tools to include and where to put them--useful, for example, when grouping tools according to frequently performed tasks.

Adobe Photoshop does not have a customizable toolbox.

66. ABILITY TO ALIGN MULTIPLE VIEWS OF AN IMAGE SIMULTANEOUSLY

Frequently an image editor needs to have multiple views of the same image open--for example, to view different channels or ratios simultaneously. In this case, the user would want all views to be focused on the same area of the image, no matter where the active window is scrolled. PhotoStyler therefore provides an automatic alignment option that can pan all of an image's open windows at the same time that the image editor uses the grabber hand to move around in the active window. This ensures that all views are focused on the area the user is working on.

Like PhotoStyler, Adobe Photoshop can show multiple views of the same image, but it can't automatically focus all the views on the same area without the user manually scrolling each window independently to the appropriate spot.

67. HARDER-WORKING "SAVE" AND "SAVE AS" DIALOG BOXES

In Aldus PhotoStyler, the "Save" and "Save as" dialog boxes provide similar functionality as the "Open" dialog box, enabling users to search through their hard drive, see a thumbnail preview of the active image, and set up formats and file types for the file about to be saved. Even as they're about to save a file, users can delete large files when disk memory is low, easily find a particular drive or directory, attach comments such as version notes to files as they're saved, and perform other file maintenance tasks.

Adobe Photoshop does not offer similar capabilities in its "Save" and "Save as" dialog boxes.

68. BETTER ONLINE HELP

PhotoStyler provides a complete context-sensitive Help that's accessible from every menu, dialog box, and tool ribbon. It includes an on-screen quick reference of all keyboard and mouse shortcuts, as well as hints at the bottom of the screen that briefly explain the purpose of any tool, palette, palette item, or menu command the cursor passes over. A visual Help reference shows the entire interface (complete with palettes and tools) side by side with the Help contents; a user merely points and clicks to see a complete description of a selected item. A full index is also available as a side-by-side window to keep users from losing their place in the index as they read among the entries themselves.

Adobe Photoshop's online, context-sensitive Help is available for all of its menu items but for only two-thirds of its dialog boxes. It does supply on-screen hints about tools that have been selected, but not also for menu items, palettes, and palette items. It also lacks a visual reference for interface items, a quick-reference of shortcuts, and a true index (what it labels an "index" is more like the table of contents in PhotoStyler's Help).

69. PRIVATE .INI FILES

PhotoStyler supports private .INI (preferences) files for different users, working styles, or types of jobs. The .INI file stores the workspace settings and tool and palette preferences that were in place when a user last left the program.

Adobe Photoshop does not support private preferences files.

70. COMPLETE "FILL" DIALOG BOX CONTROLS

Aldus PhotoStyler provides significantly more control over fills than Adobe Photoshop. Image editors can set the fill color as black, white, the background or foreground color, or one of up to eight custom colors PhotoStyler saves for the user. In the same dialog box, they can set a fill's opacity and color mode, change its component-color values, get to the color picker to select a new color, and use an eye-dropper to select a color from a thumbnail of the active image. A Preview button shows the results of the current fill settings on the active selection. Being able to control so many fill attributes from one place aids experimentation and increases productivity.

Adobe Photoshop 2.5.1 can fill an object with the current foreground color, a pattern, or with the corresponding portion of either the saved version of the file or a "snapshot" they've previously taken of the image (the latter option in essence "reverts" selected portions of the image). The user must reset the foreground color before opening the "Fill" dialog box, where only the fill's opacity and color mode can be set. All other color settings must be built into the foreground color.

71. CHOICE OF COLOR IN WORK AREA

When an image window is sized larger than the image itself, PhotoStyler lets users select from among seven background colors for one that interferes least with the colors in the image. This improves their ability to assess and correct colors accurately, with less distraction. The choices include white, black, and shades of gray, including 18% gray, the best choice for most viewing environments.

Adobe Photoshop gives no choice to the user, instead making an image background of light gray or black.

72. MEASUREMENTS IN MILLIMETERS

PhotoStyler lets users specify units of measurement in millimeters, as well as in the standard inches, pixels, picas, points, and centimeters. Millimeters are useful in Europe and other countries where the metric system is in common use.

Adobe Photoshop cannot specify units in millimeters.

73. MORE FLEXIBLE PLUG-IN SUPPORT

PhotoStyler supports both the PhotoStyler for Windows and Adobe Photoshop for Windows plug-in specification. In addition, users can configure PhotoStyler to load plug-in filters that support either plug-in standard from up to nine separate hard-drive locations, providing users with more flexibility in installing filters.

Adobe Photoshop for Windows supports only the Adobe Photoshop for Windows plug-in standard, and can only load filters located in the Photoshop PLUGINS directory.

74. ALL PAINTING ATTRIBUTES ALWAYS DISPLAYED

PhotoStyler has a Painting Options palette that displays all attributes for the current paintbrush or airbrush tool, including its opacity, spacing, soft edge, rate of flow, and stroke length settings. Showing all attributes at once and in one place allows for faster double-checks and adjustments.

Adobe Photoshop requires the user to check in three places to find out all current settings for a painting or airbrush tool: the tool's own dialog box (accessible by double-clicking the tool), the Brushes palette (which can always be open), and the Brushes Options dialog box (accessible only from the Brushes palette).

75. CONSTANT FEEDBACK ABOUT WHETHER SELECTION AREAS ARE ACTIVE

The rectangular selection tool in the PhotoStyler tool palette always indicates whether there's an active selection area in the image. By "marching" in place in the palette, the tool alerts users when even one pixel is still selected, or when a selection marquee has been temporarily hidden. This saves them the aggravation of accidentally applying tools to the selection instead of to another part of the image.

Adobe Photoshop does not offer this capability; users must often second-guess why a particular tool may not be working the way they expect, when the tool is actually being applied to a selection they don't realize is still active.

76. TWO SIZES FOR TOOL ICONS

Tool icons in PhotoStyler can be set at either 24x24 or 32x32 pixels to govern the size of the palette and how well it fits on-screen. This feature is especially useful for those who have small monitors.

Adobe Photoshop does not offer this capability.

77. ABILITY TO OPEN THE PROGRAM IN MAXIMIZED WINDOW MODE

A preferences option can set PhotoStyler to always open in maximized window mode. This was a popular request from version 1.1 users, many of whom would create a macro to perform this one task during launch. Being able to open PhotoStyler into the user's typical working configuration saves an extra step that is otherwise a nuisance task.

Adobe Photoshop cannot be configured to open in maximized window mode.

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3/94

Produced in USA

Available from Aldus Corporation as document #988-929M

---End of document---

:HOW TO GET YOUR OWN GENIE ACCOUNT:

Set your communications software to Half Duplex (or Local Echo)

Call: (with modem) 800-638-8369.

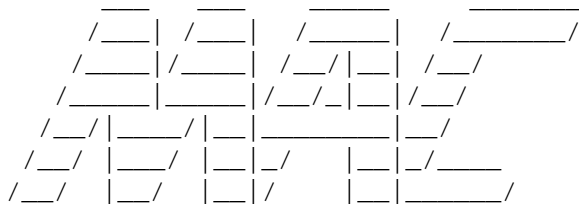
Upon connection type HHH (RETURN after that).

Wait for the U#= prompt.

Type: XTX99587,CPUREPT then, hit RETURN.

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*** STReport available in MAC RT ***

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MAC/APPLE SECTION (II)

=====

R. Dean, Editor (Temp)

> USR Sysop Deal STR InfoFile

PRODUCT	PRICE

Special Limited time offer from now until June 1. Order now to lock in this price. Modems are scheduled to begin shipping the May to June time-frame. The NEW Courier "V.FAST-"Dual Standard" utilizes FLASHROM technology, so updates and V.34 are only a software download away!	
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DOMESTIC POWER SUPPLY (INT'L USERS)*	\$ 10
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!HIGH SPEED DUAL ASYNC SERIAL BOARD	\$ 50

! Product subject to availability

* European Sysops must now order via our office in France. The BBS number is +33 20-059945, voice number is +33 20-471210. Be sure to read their EURODEAL rules as they differ from USR/USA.

**International version - a separate power supply must be ordered if the modem is used outside the U.S. or Canada. International power supply is 220 volts; Domestic power supply is 110 volts. At least one (1) power supply must be ordered with each international modem.

***For detailed information and technical specifications on the above products, call the U.S. Robotics Technical Support Department at 800-550-7800. You can also FAX at 708-982-0823 or try our Fax on Demand at 800-762-6163 or 708-982-9061. In Europe call +33 20-471210 or FAX +33 20-919927.

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U.S. ROBOTICS SYSOP SUPPORT PROGRAM

General:

This section describes the rules of the U.S. Robotics SYSOP Program. U.S. Robotics reserves the right to modify or change these rules at any time.

Scope:

The U.S. Robotics SYSOP Program permits QUALIFIED SYSOPs to purchase current U.S. Robotics products at a reduced price. The purpose of this program is to continue the close relationship established many years ago between U.S. Robotics and the Sysop community. Participants should recognize that our ability to continue the program is dependent upon the strong position U.S. Robotics enjoys in the reseller channel, with the distributors and dealers, VARs, etc. that continue to buy and resell our products to home and business users around the world. It is our intent to maintain the integrity of our channel relationships by closely scrutinizing each SYSOP sale to ensure that we only sell products to qualified SYSOPs.

Qualifications:

1. The SYSOP states that he/she is NOT in the business of reselling computer products and/or related peripherals, including modems. Qualified resellers may take advantage of other programs offered by U.S. Robotics by calling (800) 342-5877 and asking for the dealer sales representative for your area.

2. The SYSOP has been operating the bulletin board system for at least six (6) months and that this activity can be verified by dialing into the bulletin board system. Typically user logs, activity logs, and local message bases are a good source for verifying activity.

*** The exception to this rule is as follows:

If you are a registered owner of any of the following software packages US Robotics automatically waives the 6 month verification portion of the qualifications. US Robotics is proud to have entered into this agreement with:

The participating vendors are:

PC Board(Clark Development)	(800)356-1686 Voice Dos (801)261-8976 BBS
Wildcat!(Mustang Software Inc.)	(800)999-9619 Voice Dos (805)873-2400 BBS
Power Board(NUIQ Software Inc.)	(914)833-3479 Voice Dos (914)833-1479 BBS (914)834-7830 BBS (914)833-3623 FAX
Searchlight	(800)780-LITE Voice Dos (516)689-2566 BBS
Roboboard	(819)682-6670 Voice Dos (819)682-7771 BBS
T.P Board and Front Door	(201)941-1110 Voice Dos
Remote Access(Wantree Development)	(800)648-9800 Voice Dos (913)441-0595 BBS
The Major BBS (Galaticomm, Inc.)	(800)328-1128 Voice Dos (305)583-7808 BBS
First Class (SoftArc)	(416)299-4723 Voice Mac(E-Mail) (416)609-2250 BBS
TeleFinder (Spider Island)	(714)669-9260 Voice Mac (714)730-5785 BBS
AmiExpress	Phone to be announced.... Amiga
DLG (TelePro Technologies)	(403)341-7826 Voice Amiga (403)347-3269 BBS
Celebrity/Alacrity (Lexicon Computing)	(310)693-9405 BBS Dos
TEAMate (MMB Development Corp)	(310)318-1322 Voice Unix

3. The SYSOP understands that the number of modems that may be obtained under this program is limited to the number of working, VERIFIABLE data lines. Data lines MUST be dedicated for modem use only and MUST be available 24 hours a day for modem access. Modems purchased under this program MUST be used on one of the stated lines. Furthermore, the SYSOP understands that the number of serial cards that may be obtained is one for each 2 modems ordered under the SYSOP Program. Participants in the Sysop Program beginning 1/1/92 may purchase the Dual Async Card based on these rules as well.
4. The SYSOP agrees to post an appropriate logon notice, visible to users of the bulletin board, which states that said bulletin board uses and supports U.S. Robotics brand products.
5. The SYSOP agrees that he/she intends to operate the bulletin board, for which these products are purchased, for at least six (6) months post purchase. The U.S. Robotics logon must remain in effect for six (6) months to allow verification that the bulletin board is in place and that the

U.S. Robotics promotional message is being displayed.

6. The SYSOP agrees that, in order to avoid conflict with the U.S. Robotics reseller channel, modems purchased under this program cannot be re-sold without the expressed written consent of U.S. Robotics. Violation of this policy will result in the SYSOP's being ineligible for future participation in the U.S. Robotics SYSOP program. In addition, any warranties on modems re-sold without U.S. Robotics authorization will be null and void.

7. The SYSOP understands that initialization of the verification process may take from one (1) to fifteen (15) days depending on the number of orders being processed by the SYSOP Support Department, and difficulty in verifying your bulletin board. Shipment of product will take from two (2) to six (6) weeks pending availability of the particular product ordered. U.S. Robotics will ship product(s) to QUALIFIED SYSOPs as soon as possible after:

- A. The SYSOP completes the order form and questionnaire found on the U.S. Robotics BBS via the SYSOP command at the main menu. These must be filled-out on-line as no mail-in orders will be accepted.

Prepaid orders will NOT be processed until payment has been received by U.S. Robotics. After placing an order on the board, a SYSOP wishing to prepay his/her order should send a money order or cashier's check for U.S. funds to:

U.S. Robotics
SYSOP Support Program
8100 McCormick Blvd.
Skokie, IL 60076

It is imperative that the SYSOP name, voice phone number and BBS phone number be indicated for identification purposes. A personal or company check is acceptable, but shipping will be delayed for ten (10) working days to ensure that the check clears our bank.

NO CHECKS OR MONEY ORDERS WILL BE DEPOSITED BY U.S. ROBOTICS
UNTIL THE SYSOP's BBS HAS BEEN VERIFIED.

[illegible]

- *** THANK YOU ***

Before placing an order, please take steps to ensure the process goes as easily as possible.

1. Create a login for U.S. Robotics
2. Ensure no questionnaires or voting is necessary

3. If your logon requires information other than password be sure to include this information on the order.
4. Once this is established logon under the U.S. Robotics ID and look for verifiable proof of six months activity. If you can't find it, odds are we won't be able to either.

** US Robotics CAN NOT download special software to verify **
** your BBS. We support the basic communication platforms. **

U.S. Robotics is determined to provide a SYSOP Program which is fair and equitable to everyone. Any requests made of SYSOPs in order to verify Bulletin Boards are made in order to ensure that the program serves the entire SYSOP community and protect the USR distribution channel as well.

We will make every effort to process each and every order in a professional and courteous manner. Please help us to provide the type of service you want and deserve by filling-out the order form as completely and accurately as possible and responding to our requests for additional information in a prompt manner.

*** THANK YOU ***

Contact Points for U.S. Robotics Inc., USA
BBS - 708-982-5092
FAX - 708-982-0823
Fax on Demand - 800-762-6163 or 708-982-9061
Compuserve - GO USROBOTICS 76711,707
FIDO - 1:115/500
RIME - USRUSA #174
PRIME - 98:212/1
Internet - support@usr.com
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Sales - 800-DIAL-USR

03/17/94
USRobotics Inc.

IMPORTANT NOTICE!
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STReport International Online Magazine is available every week for your reading pleasure on DELPHI. STReport's readers are invited to join DELPHI and become a part of an extremely friendly community of enthusiastic computer users there.

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ATARI/JAG SECTION (III)

=====

Dana Jacobson, Editor

> From the Atari Editor's Desk

"Saying it like it is!"

Well, it's certainly been a week of interesting news. First Commodore announces it's liquidating its assets and out of business; and then Atari announces "...that it has exclusively licensed Jaguar technology to Sigma Designs to deliver PC cards incorporating the award-winning Jaguar 64-bit technology with Sigma's Reel-Magic(TM) full-motion video capabilities. This deal will expand Jaguar's market reach by allowing more than 10 million users to play Jaguar software titles on their IBM-compatible personal computers by year's end." Both of the announcements, in their entirety, are included in this issue.

While the end of Commodore has probably not shocked too many people, the news is unnerving. It could have easily been Atari, instead. Commodore and Atari computer users have a lot in common with each other. Both really never reached the levels of acceptance of the public, though deserved. Both, however, maintained a profile of "non-conformity" by not going with the PC/Mac "in-crowd" and purchasing systems according to their needs/desires rather than a self-proclaimed standard.

What impact will the shutting down of Commodore have on Atari and its users? Probably the only thing it will do is give us a taste of reality - that of finality. There will be little benefit as Commodore users aren't likely to abandon their platform, least of all toward Atari machines, if at all in the near future. There may be some "benefits" by attracting buyers for the Jaguar over the 3D2.

As to the announcement of Atari licensing their Jaguar technology to Sigma, this has a great deal of potential for Atari. Although the announcement carries few specific details (cost, hardware requirements, etc.), Atari can reap some terrific rewards by capturing another market for Jaguar users. As we learn more of the aspects of this new venture, we should be able to tell just how promising this new agreement will become.

As mentioned last week, both STReport Editor regulars Joe Mirando and John Duckworth are away this week; look for their return shortly! Until next time...

Delphi's Atari Advantage!
TOP TEN DOWNLOADS (5/4/94)

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------|
| (1) CANVAS V.1.7 | *(6) PROFILE 1.5 |
| (2) WHATIS 6.7 | (7) LHARC 3.01 |
| (3) PHOTOCHROME 4 | (8) BOOTXS |
| *(4) GUIDE TO THE INTERNET | (9) SPACE WARS 2000 |

* = New on list

HONORARY TOP 10

The following on-line magazines are always top downloads, frequently out-performing every other file in the databases.

STREPORT (Current issue: STREPORT #10.18)

ATARI EXPLORER ONLINE (Current issue: AEO - VOLUME 3, ISSUE 7)

Look for the above files in the RECENT ARRIVALS database.

> Atari Licenses Jaguar Technology! STR Spotlight

For Immediate Release

Contact: Lynn Thompson, 408/764-0740
Karen Magill, 617/494-8202
Cunningham Communications, Inc.

Bill Rehbock, 408/745-2000
Atari Corporation

ATARI and SIGMA DESIGNS PARTNER to DELIVER
JAGUAR for the PC

SAN JOSE, Calif. -- May 3, 1994 -- Atari Corporation (AMEX: ATC) today announced that it has exclusively licensed Jaguar technology to Sigma Designs (NASDAQ:SIGM) to deliver PC cards incorporating the award-winning Jaguar 64-bit technology with Sigma's Reel-Magic(TM) full-motion video capabilities. This deal will expand Jaguar's market reach by allowing more than 10 million users to play Jaguar software titles on their IBM-compatible personal computers by year's end.

"Atari will once again jump ahead of the market by bringing the world's most advanced game technology to a new group of consumers in record time," said Sam Tramiel, president of Atari. "Knowing there would be great demand for Jaguar on personal computers -- we designed the system to talk easily to the leading computer architectures. This has allowed us to move quickly to partner with Sigma Designs to make this happen before Christmas."

"We are pleased to join Atari in its mission to expand the industry standards for video game play," said Julien Nguyen, vice president of engineering and chief technical officer of Sigma Designs. "Jaguar's 64-bit technology will be extremely attractive to the MPC customer base of more than 10 million users. By combining Sigma's Moving Picture Experts Group (MPEG) technology with Atari's 3D animation, we look forward to bringing the hottest video game technology and software titles to the desktops of users worldwide."

June 30. Its stock, which had traded at around \$3 per share before the quarterly results were announced last month, closed unchanged at 87 1/2 cents per share on the New York Stock Exchange today.

"This is a company that briefly captured the attention of the American market and didn't go where the market was going," said David Coursey, editor of the newsletter P.C. Letter in San Mateo, Calif. "They just never managed to change with the marketplace."

While grabbing some market share and attention in the late 1970s, Commodore's products were something between PCs and game machines "and never quite became either," Coursey said. Commodore started 40 years ago as a typewriter repair company in the Bronx. Its extension to the adding machine business paved the way for it to make calculators and then personal computers by the mid-1970s. Commodore competed with Radio Shack for the first computers sold to homes and co-founder Jack Tramiel became a highly-regarded figure in the fledgling PC industry.

By the early 1980s, it was overshadowed in the PC business by Apple Computer Inc. and IBM. Software manufacturers didn't create as much software for Commodore's Amiga line as it did for Apple and IBM-compatible machines.

In recent years, most of Commodore's business was in Europe. NewTek Inc. of Topeka, Kan., created a product called Video Toaster that converted Commodore's Amiga to a video-editing system. The \$2500 product was popular with small advertising agencies and home hobbyists. The company's phones were busy tonight.

Commodore Users Mull Options

(May 2)

Scores of concerned Commodore Amiga users and developers from around the world gathered in the conference area of the Amiga User's Forum (GO AMIGAUSER) Sunday evening. They met to discuss their options now that Commodore International has said it plans to liquidate its operations.

Answering members' questions was Mike Levin, leader of the Commodore Shareholders Movement, an organization representing the interests of Commodore investors. "There will be no doom and gloom here tonight," promised Levin as he opened the conference.

Member John Horton asked a question pressing on the minds of many Amiga users and developers: "Will the Amiga line continue?"

"There are several possibilities," replied Levin. "It is my belief that no one will continue to make the Amigas which we are familiar with beyond what the existing supply of chips will allow. But instead, someone will pick up the technology and license it out to anyone who wants it, and you will see an array of Amiga-ish products, including cable boxes, game machines, and an Amiga-on-a-card for PCs."

Member Carl Hansen asked, "What will a share of Commodore be worth tomorrow and then next week?" "Friday's news is definitely bad for shareholders," answered Levin. "First the large creditors will be paid back, then the smaller ones, then the shareholders. We probably won't see much at all when it's done." Member Mike Richard asked, "What do you think this will all mean in the short-term?"

Unfortunately, the existing adapters for MultiSync monitors make the Falcon030 think that a VGA only monitor is connected and therefore the computer refuses to use all it's available modes. How can you get the full use of your multisync monitor?

chro_MAGIC Software Innovations offers the MultiSync Gizmo as a solution to your multisync monitor troubles. The MultiSync Gizmo is a monitor adapter that has a switch to toggle between VGA and RGB modes. Just plug in your multisync monitor and set the switch - that's all there is too it. You can even switch between VGA and RGB "on the fly" without having to reboot the computer. The MultiSync Gizmo is backed by a full 1 year warranty & is available NOW from your local dealer or direct from chro_MAGIC. Suggested retail price is only \$24.99 (US).

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Note: Requires an Atari Falcon030 and a multisync monitor with a 15 pin connector. May also be used as a VGA adapter when the switch is set to VGA mode.

Also available from chro_MAGIC			
RAM Gizmo for Falcon030	-	\$99.00	suggested retail
Pianistics 1.20 for ST/STe/TT/Falcon	-	\$79.00	suggested retail
Guitaristics 1.92 for ST/STe/TT/Falcon	-	\$69.00	suggested retail

* NEC 3D, FalconScreen, SWABS, ScreenBlaster, and BlowUp030 are trademarks of their respective companies. chro_MAGIC Software Innovations claims no ties with said companies or their products.

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> View 2.5! STR InfoFile - New From "It's All Relative!"
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Here is a partial list of the new features in View 2.5, which we expect to release at the TAF'94 in San Antonio this June 4-5.

The text viewer updates:

- In version 2.0, the text viewer and control module were a single program.

This is no longer true. [Note: this allows you to easily replace the text viewer, if there is another viewer you prefer!]

- Can now call a text editor.
- Can call up a fileselector to load another file.

- Displays text in TT medium res, if this resolution is available. [For you Falcon users, that's 640x480x16.]
- Supports graphics cards.
- Will optionally load the entire file into memory, rather than small chunks.
- Will allow mouse selection of options from Help screen.
- Has a "slider" on the Help screen for fast access to any point in a file.
- Displays text twice as fast.
- Has a multi-line scroll capability for faster scrolling on all computers.
- Has a third, slower speed for better scroll control.
- Has adjustable mouse sensitivity.
- Can optionally use mouse buttons to scroll.
- Has an adjustable full-screen scroll amount.
- Can search backwards, as well as forwards.
- Now includes a case-sensitive search, to go with its case-insensitive search.
- Has an extra hex display mode to display files as binary data.
- Will select hex mode by default if the file is non-ASCII.

Coming soon, we'll post the list for the picture viewer... we didn't want to inundate everyone with the entire list all in one day. ;-)

~dmj - It's All Relative

STReport's "EDITORIAL CARTOON"

> A "Quotable Quote" What a Concept!

Two politicians took a long safari vacation in the African Bush. One day, they took a rest, removed their packs, and leaned their rifles against a tree. They were startled when a large, hungry-looking lion emerged from the jungle and began eyeing them with anticipation. It was clear that the politicians' rifles were too far away to do them any good. One politician began to remove his shoes, and was asked by the other why he was doing that. The man replied, "Because I can run faster without them." The first politician told him, "I don't care how fast you can run, you'll never outrace that lion." The now-barefoot politician told him, "I don't have to outrun the lion..... I only have to outrun you!!"

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